

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the performance of a thorough search.

By this amendment, Claims 1, 17, and 22 have been amended. No claims have been added or deleted. Hence, Claims 1 - 35 are pending in the application.

As a preliminary matter, it is requested that the Examiner please confirm that the preliminary amendment dated March 3, 2000 was entered.

SUMMARY OF THE REJECTIONS/OBJECTIONS

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, Claims 1, 4, 6, 8-11, 14-19, 21-23, 25, 27-30, and 33-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,401,132 issued to Bellwood et al. ("Bellwood") in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,301,471 issued to Dahm et al. ("Dahm").

In paragraph 14 of the Office Action, Claims 2-3, 5, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bellwood in view of Dahm and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,125,391 issued to Meltzer et al. ("Meltzer").

In paragraph 18 of the Office Action, Claims 7, 12, 13, 20, 26, and 31-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bellwood in view of Dahm and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,154,738 issued to Call ("Call").

THE 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTION BASED ON BELLWOOD IN VIEW OF DAHM

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, Claims 1, 4, 6, 8-11, 14-19, 21-23, 25, 27-30, and 33-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,401,132 issued to Bellwood et al. ("Bellwood") in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,301,471 issued to Dahm et al. ("Dahm").

CLAIM 1

With respect to amended Claim 1, it requires:

receiving, from a particular type of client, a request for a service;

wherein said request for said service is received at a system located separately from said client;

within said system generating, based on a first set of parameters, a request object;

at said system generating, based on said responses, a composite response document in said particular format.

None of the art of record discloses or in any way renders obvious this limitation.

BELLWOOD TEACHES

Referring to the abstract, Bellwood teaches a method for transcoding an input stream to a desired output format using a series of transcoders. A subseries of specialized transcoders transcode detected external references. The reference is returned back to a given transcoder, where it is incorporated into the output.

At Col. 4, lines 34 – 41, Bellwood specifically teaches a **browser** formulating a user's request for data. At Col. 4, lines 44 - 53, Bellwood teaches a **first transcoder** that receives the above request for data. The first transcoder expresses the request in HTTP and transcodes data of a certain type. At Col. 4, lines 54 – 60, Bellwood teaches a **second transcoder** that receives the output of the first transcoder, observes the source type and the desired type, and performs an appropriate translation. At Col. 4, line 61 to Col. 5 line 6, Bellwood teaches a **third transcoder** that receives the output of the second transcoder. The third transcoder serves as a dynamic web server, which dynamically accesses the data from any resource available to the

system and generates a response to the user's request. At Col. 5, lines 6 – 13, Bellwood teaches a **fourth transcoder**, which functions as an editor. The output is provided back to the **browser**.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BELLWOOD AND CLAIM 1

As amended, Claim 1 expressly recites a "system" that performs specific actions. It is not clear what in Bellwood would be considered to be analogous to the recited "system". For the sake of argument, it shall be assumed that the Examiner would have considered Bellwood's "first transcoder" to be analogous to the "system" recited in Claim 1 because:

- (1) in Claim 1, a request is received at the "system"; and
- (2) Bellwood's first transcoder receives a user request.

In contrast, the "system" could not be considered to be analogous to Bellwood's browser because:

- (1) Bellwood's browser issues a request from the client on which the browser is executing; and
- (2) in Claim 1, the system is located separately from the client that requests the service.

Assuming, therefore, that Bellwood's "first transcoder" is considered to be the recited "system", Bellwood clearly fails to teach several of the express limitations of Claim 1.

Specifically, Bellwood fails to teach:

within said system generating, based on a first set of parameters, a request object;
wherein said first set of parameters includes identity of said service;
based on said request object, said system transmitting requests to one or more data sources;

As another example, Bellwood fails to teach “at said system generating, based on said responses, a composite response document in said particular format”. In fact Bellwood does not teach generating a composite response document of any kind anywhere. Instead at Col. 4, lines 45 – 53 Bellwood teaches the first transcoder,

expresses the request in HTTP, e.g., encoding the desired data format into HTTP headers using an HTTP extension mechanism. ... The transcoder may be set up to transcode data of a certain type (and/or from specific providers or requests, or classes of requests, such as for clients using specific pervasive devices like a palmtop). (emphasis added).

The mere transcoding of a **request** does not disclose or in any way suggest the generation of "a composite **response** document in said particular format" based on "responses to said requests from said one or more data sources in one or more formats other than a particular format".

DAHM TEACHES

Referring to the abstract, Dahm teaches a method for identifying mobile subscribers as likely candidates for “churning” and for subsequently offering to the subscriber a mobile service plan that would better meet the subscriber’s needs. The subscriber is allowed to review and to execute the mobile service plan using the mobile device’s interface. At Col. 11, lines 54 –55, and at Col. 12, lines 17 – 18, Dahm defines “churning” as switching from one carrier to another carrier.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DAHM AND CLAIM 1

A first point to note with regards to Dahm is that, similar to Bellwood, Dahm does not teach *generating a request object within a system that is located separately from the client that requested a service*. A second point to note is that, similar to Bellwood, Dahm does not teach “at said system generating, based on said responses, a composite response document in said

particular format”. Instead, Dahm teaches a method for identifying mobile subscribers as likely candidates for “churning” and offering a mobile service plan to avoid such “churning”, as already described herein.

OFFICE ACTION’S ARGUMENTS

The Office Action contends that Bellwood teaches at Col. 4, lines 34 – 60 *generating a request object within a system that is located separately from the client that requested a service*. Instead, at Col. 4, lines 34 – 41, Bellwood teaches a **browser**, which by definition is **NOT separate** from the client, formulating a user’s request for data.

The Office Action also contends that Bellwood teaches “at said system generating, based on said responses, a composite response document in said particular format”, at Col. 4, line 17 to Col. 5, line 13. Instead at Col. 4, line 17 to Col. 5, line 13, Bellwood teaches a first transcoder that expresses the request in HTTP and transcodes data of a certain type.

Dahm does not teach *generating a request object within a system that is located separately from the client that requested a service*. In fact, the Office Action does not even assert that Dahm teaches *generating a request object within a system that is located separately from the client that requested a service*. Furthermore, Dahm does not teach “at said system generating, based on said responses, a composite response document in said particular format”. In fact, the Office Action does not even assert that Dahm teaches “at said system generating, based on said responses, a composite response document in said particular format”.

Therefore, Bellwood taken alone fails to disclose or suggest the method of Claim 1. Dahm taken alone also fails to disclose or suggest the method of Claim 1. Even taken in combination, assuming that it would have been obvious to combine the references, Bellwood and Dahm fail to disclose or suggest the method of Claim 1 because neither one teaches,

generating a request object within a system that is located separately from the client that requested a service and “at said system generating, based on said responses, a composite response document in said particular format”. Thus, Claim 1 is patentable over Bellwood and Dahm, taken individually or in combination.

CLAIM 17

Claim 17 recites limitations that are analogous to the limitations recited by Claim 1 except that the limitations recited by Claim 17 are directed to a system. Therefore, Claim 17 should be allowed for the same reasons that Claim 1 should be allowed.

CLAIM 22

Claim 22 recites limitations that are analogous to the limitations recited by Claim 1 except that the limitations recited by Claim 22 are directed to computer-readable medium. Therefore, Claim 22 should be allowed for the same reasons that Claim 1 should be allowed.

CLAIMS THAT DEPEND ON CLAIM 1, CLAIM 17, AND CLAIM 22

Claims 4, 6, 8-11, and 14-16 are dependent on Claim 1; Claims 18-29, and 21 are dependent on Claim 17; Claims 23, 25, 27-30, and 33-35 are dependent on Claim 22. Therefore Claims 4, 6, 8-11, and 14-16 are allowable for the same reasons that Claim 1 is allowable; Claims 18-29, and 21 are allowable for the same reasons that Claim 17 is allowable; Claims 23, 25, 27-30, and 33-35 are allowable for the same reasons that Claim 22 is allowable. In addition, the dependent claims introduce additional limitations that independently render them patentable.

**THE 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTION BASED ON BELLWOOD IN VIEW OF DAHM
AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF MELTZER**

In paragraph 14 of the Office Action, Claims 2-3, 5, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bellwood in view of Dahm and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,125,391 issued to Meltzer et al. ("Meltzer").

CLAIMS THAT DEPEND ON CLAIM 1 AND CLAIM 22

Claims 2-3 and 5 are dependent on Claim 1; Claim 24 is dependent on Claim 22. Meltzer does not teach *generating a request object within a system that is located separately from the client that requested a service*. In fact, the Office Action does not even assert that Meltzer teaches *generating a request object within a system that is located separately from the client that requested a service*. Furthermore, Meltzer does not teach “at said system generating, based on said responses, a composite response document in said particular format”. In fact, the Office Action does not even assert that Meltzer teaches “at said system generating, based on said responses, a composite response document in said particular format”. Therefore Claims 2-3 and 5 are allowable for the same reasons that Claim 1 is allowable; Claim 24 is allowable for the same reasons that Claim 22 is allowable. In addition, the dependent claims introduce additional limitations that independently render them patentable.

**THE 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTION BASED ON BELLWOOD IN VIEW OF DAHM
AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF CALL**

In paragraph 18 of the Office Action, Claims 7, 12, 13, 20, 26, and 31-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bellwood in view of Dahm and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,154,738 issued to Call ("Call").

CLAIMS THAT DEPEND ON CLAIM 1, CLAIM 17 AND CLAIM 22

Claims 7, 12 and 13 are dependent on Claim 1; Claim 20 is dependent on Claim 17; Claims 26 and 31-32 are dependent on Claim 22. Call does not teach *generating a request object within a system that is located separately from the client that requested a service*. In fact, the Office Action does not even assert that Call teaches *generating a request object within a system that is located separately from the client that requested a service*. Furthermore, Call does not teach “at said system generating, based on said responses, a composite response document in said particular format”. In fact, the Office Action does not even assert that Call teaches “at said system generating, based on said responses, a composite response document in said particular format”. Therefore Claims 7, 12 and 13 are allowable for the same reasons that Claim 1 is allowable; Claim 20 is allowable for the same reasons that Claim 17 is allowable. Claims 26 and 31-32 are allowable for the same reasons that Claim 22 is allowable. In addition, the dependent claims introduce additional limitations that independently render them patentable.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned “**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.**”

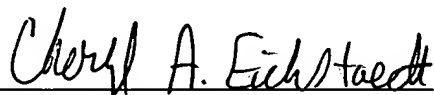
For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Box Non Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 on October 23, 2002.

Sheila Severinghaus
Name


Signature

October 23, 2002
Date Signed



Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

CLAIMS

1 1. (ONCE AMENDED) A method for retrieving information from one or more data
2 sources, the method including the steps of:
3 receiving, from a particular type of client, a request for a service;
4 wherein said request for said service is received at a system located separately from
5 said client;
6 wherein said request is sent by a particular user;
7 within said system generating, based on a first set of parameters, a request object;
8 wherein said first set of parameters includes identity of said service;
9 based on [the] said request object, said system transmitting requests to one or more
10 data sources;
11 at said system receiving responses to said requests from said one or more data sources
12 in one or more formats other than a particular format;
13 at said system converting said responses into said particular format;
14 at said system generating, based on said responses, a composite response document in
15 said particular format;
16 at said system transforming said composite response document into a client-formatted
17 response based on a second set of parameters;
18 wherein said second set of parameters includes identity of said particular type of
19 client; and

20 at said system transmitting said client-formatted response to said particular user.

1 2. (NOT AMENDED) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of
2 embedding within said request object one or more filtering criteria, and
3 filtering data from said composite response document based on said filtering criteria
4 prior to transforming said composite response document.

1 3. (NOT AMENDED) The method of Claim 2 wherein
2 one of said requests invokes a search mechanism at a data source based on a first set
3 of search criteria; and
4 the step of filtering data includes filtering data that originated from said data source
5 based on a second set of search criteria.

1 4. (NOT AMENDED) The method of Claim 1 wherein said first set of parameters for
2 generating said request object includes identity of said particular user.

1 5. (NOT AMENDED) The method of Claim 1 wherein:
2 the step of generating the request object includes generating filtering criteria; and
3 the method includes filtering data from the composite response document based on the
4 filtering criteria before transforming the composite response document.

1 6. (NOT AMENDED) The method of Claim 1 wherein:
2 the step of receiving responses to said requests from said one or more data sources in
3 one or more formats other than a particular format involves receiving
4 responses to said requests from said one or more data sources in one or more
5 formats other than XML;

6 the step of converting said responses into said particular format involves converting
7 responses into XML;
8 the step of generating a composite response document in said particular format
9 involves generating a composite response document in XML; and
10 the step of transforming said composite response document into a client-formatted
11 response involves transforming said composite response document into a
12 format other than XML.

1 7. (NOT AMENDED) The method of Claim 6 wherein the step of transforming
2 includes:
3 identifying one or more XSL stylesheets based on said second set of parameters; and
4 applying said one or more XSL stylesheets to said composite response document.

1 8. (NOT AMENDED) The method of Claim 1 wherein:
2 said one or more data sources include
3 a first data source that supports a first protocol and is accessible through a first
4 gateway, and
5 a second data source that supports a second protocol and is accessible through
6 a second gateway; and
7 the step of converting said responses into said particular format includes
8 said first gateway converting a response from said first data source to said
9 particular format; and
10 said second gateway converting a response from said second data source to
11 said particular format.

- 1 9. (NOT AMENDED) The method of Claim 8 wherein at least one of said first data
2 source and said second data source is a database system.
- 1 10. (NOT AMENDED) The method of Claim 8 wherein at least one of said first data
2 source and said second data source is an HTTP server.
- 1 11. (NOT AMENDED) The method of Claim 10 wherein the client-formatted response is
2 an HTML document.
- 1 12. (NOT AMENDED) The method of Claim 6 wherein:
2 the step of generating a request object involves generating an XML request document
3 that includes unresolved links; and
4 the step of transmitting requests involves resolving said unresolved links.
- 1 13. (NOT AMENDED) The method of Claim 12 wherein the step of generating said
2 composite response document involves replacing said unresolved links in said XML
3 request document with XML data generated based on said responses from said one or
4 more data sources.
- 1 14. (NOT AMENDED) The method of Claim 1 wherein said particular type of client is a
2 mobile phone.
- 1 15. (NOT AMENDED) The method of Claim 1 wherein:
2 the method further comprises the steps of
3 receiving data that indicates user-specific customizations to services;
4 storing said data in a configuration database;

5 searching said configuration database for said user-specific customizations in
6 response to receiving said request for said service;
7 said first set of parameters used to generate said request object includes said user-
8 specific customizations.

1 16. (NOT AMENDED) The method of Claim 1 wherein:
2 said one or more data sources include
3 a first web site accessible through a gateway, and
4 a second web site accessible through said gateway; and
5 the step of converting said responses into said particular format includes
6 said gateway converting a first response from said first web site to said
7 particular format; and
8 said gateway converting a second response from said second web site to said
9 particular format.

1 17. (ONCE AMENDED) A system for transferring information between devices, the
2 system comprising:
3 a request preprocessor, which is located separately from clients, configured to
4 receive [a] service requests from said clients,
5 generate request objects for said service requests, and
6 pass said request objects to a request processor, which is located separately
7 from said clients;
8 said request processor operatively coupled to said request preprocessor and to one or
9 more gateways, said request processor being configured to respond to said

10 request objects by transmitting requests to data sources through said one or
11 more gateways;
12 said one or more gateways operatively coupled between said request processor and
13 said data sources, said one or more gateways being configured to
14 translate between a particular format and one or more other formats,
15 convert said requests to said one or more other formats prior to issuing said
16 requests to said data sources,
17 convert responses from said data sources to said particular format, and
18 pass said responses in said particular format to said request processor;
19 wherein said request processor is further configured to generate composite response
20 documents in said particular format based on said responses, and to pass said
21 composite response documents to a post processor;
22 said post processor operatively coupled to said request processor, said post processor
23 being configured to
24 transform said composite response documents from said particular format to
25 client-specific responses having formats required by clients, and
26 transmit said client-specific response documents to said clients.

1 18. (NOT AMENDED) The system of Claim 17 wherein said particular format is XML.

1 19. (NOT AMENDED) The system of Claim 18 wherein the request objects are XML
2 documents.

1 20. (NOT AMENDED) The system of Claim 18 wherein the post processor includes an
2 XSL engine that transforms said composite response documents by

3 selecting one or more XSL stylesheets based on a first set of parameters, said first set
4 of parameters including type of the clients; and
5 applying said one or more XSL stylesheets.

1 21. (NOT AMENDED) The system of Claim 17 wherein the pre-processor generates the
2 request objects based on a particular set of parameters, said particular set of
3 parameters including identity of users that submit said service requests.

1 22. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable medium bearing instructions for retrieving
2 information from one or more data sources, the computer-readable medium including
3 instructions for performing the steps of:

4 receiving, from a particular type of client, a request for a service;

5 wherein said request for said service is received at a system located separately from
6 said client;

7 wherein said request is sent by a particular user;

8 within said system generating, based on a first set of parameters, a request object;

9 wherein said first set of parameters includes identity of said service;

10 based on the request object, said system transmitting requests to one or more data
11 sources;

12 at said system receiving responses to said requests from said one or more data sources
13 in one or more formats other than a particular format;

14 at said system converting said responses into said particular format;

15 at said system generating, based on said responses, a composite response document in
16 said particular format;

17 at said system transforming said composite response document into a client-formatted
18 response based on a second set of parameters;
19 wherein said second set of parameters includes identity of said particular type of
20 client; and
21 at said system transmitting said client-formatted response to said particular user.

1 23. (NOT AMENDED) The computer-readable medium of Claim 22 wherein said first set
2 of parameters for generating said request object includes identity of said particular
3 user.

1 24. (NOT AMENDED) The computer-readable medium of Claim 22 wherein:
2 the step of generating the request object includes generating filtering criteria;
3 the computer-readable medium includes instructions for filtering data from the
4 composite response document based on the filtering criteria before
5 transforming the composite response document.

1 25. (NOT AMENDED) The computer-readable medium of Claim 22 wherein:
2 the step of receiving responses to said requests from said one or more data sources in
3 one or more formats other than a particular format involves receiving
4 responses to said requests from said one or more data sources in one or more
5 formats other than XML;
6 the step of converting said responses into said particular format involves converting
7 responses into XML;
8 the step of generating a composite response document in said particular format
9 involves generating a composite response document in XML; and

10 the step of transforming said composite response document into a client-formatted
11 response involves transforming said composite response document into a
12 format other than XML.

1 26. (NOT AMENDED) The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 wherein the step of
2 transforming includes:
3 identifying one or more XSL stylesheets based on said second set of parameters; and
4 applying said one or more XSL stylesheets to said composite response document.

1 27. (NOT AMENDED) The computer-readable medium of Claim 22 wherein:
2 said one or more data sources include
3 a first data source that supports a first protocol and is accessible through a first
4 gateway, and
5 a second data source that supports a second protocol and is accessible through
6 a second gateway; and
7 the step of converting said responses into said particular format includes
8 said first gateway converting a response from said first data source to said
9 particular format; and
10 said second gateway converting a response from said second data source to
11 said particular format.

1 28. (NOT AMENDED) The computer-readable medium of Claim 27 wherein at least one
2 of said first data source and said second data source is a database system.

- 1 29. (NOT AMENDED) The computer-readable medium of Claim 27 wherein at least one
2 of said first data source and said second data source is an HTTP server.
- 1 30. (NOT AMENDED) The computer-readable medium of Claim 29 wherein the client-
2 formatted response is an HTML document.
- 1 31. (NOT AMENDED) The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 wherein:
2 the step of generating a request object involves generating an XML request document
3 that includes unresolved links; and
4 the step of transmitting requests involves resolving said unresolved links.
- 1 32. (NOT AMENDED) The computer-readable medium of Claim 31 wherein the step of
2 generating said composite response document involves replacing said unresolved links
3 in said XML request document with XML data generated based on said responses
4 from said one or more data sources.
- 1 33. (NOT AMENDED) The computer-readable medium of Claim 22 wherein said
2 particular type of client is a mobile phone.
- 1 34. (NOT AMENDED) The computer-readable medium of Claim 22 wherein:
2 the computer-readable medium further comprises instructions for performing the steps
3 of
4 receiving data that indicates user-specific customizations to services;
5 storing said data in a configuration database;

6 searching said configuration database for said user-specific customizations in
7 response to receiving said request for said service;
8 said first set of parameters used to generate said request object includes said user-
9 specific customizations.

1 35. (NOT AMENDED) The computer-readable medium of Claim 22 wherein:
2 said one or more data sources include
3 a first web site accessible through a gateway, and
4 a second web site accessible through said gateway; and
5 the step of converting said responses into said particular format includes
6 said gateway converting a first response from said first web site to said
7 particular format; and
8 said gateway converting a second response from said second web site to said
9 particular format.